The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the various legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Whoever serves his country well has no need of ancestors. —Voltaire.

WHOLE NO. 1303 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 14

Industrial Progress Council Urges U. S. Loans for Small Enterprises

Increased Unemployment Held Inevitable Unless Long-Term Government Credit Is Given—Provisions for Safeguarding Wage and Hour Standards Throughout Industry Deemed Essential for Competitive Equality.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A simplified and broad program of long-term credit to small business concerns through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was urged here by the Council for Industrial Progress in a report to President Roosevelt and made public by George L. Berry, Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation. The report was prepared by the council's Committee on Financial Aid to Small Enterprises.

Based on evidence that small enterprises are responsible for slightly more than half of existing unemployment and cannot secure adequate financial aid from private sources, the council declared the proposed program would offer "a comparatively simple, practical and immediate means of increasing production and purchasing power."

Lack of Credit Blocks Recovery

Unless such provision for credit is made, the report said, "no considerable trend in widespread recovery can be expected" because of the very important part played by small enterprise in the economic life of the Nation.

Study of the subject began early in January by the council's Committee on Financial Aid to Small Enterprises, headed by Miles Pennybacker, secretary, National Electric Sign Association, Chicago, Ill., for manufacturers, and M. J. McDonough, of the Building Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, for labor.

The findings of the committee indicated that "lack of working capital has compelled small enterprises sharply to curtail expenditures on equipment and inventories of raw material" with the result that "continuation of the present conditions will increase the tendency towards monopoly, thicker prices, with further reduction in employment and in purchasing power of wage earners."

Safeguards for Work Standards

The report was adopted by the council with but one dissenting vote and said that because assistance to small enterprises is necessary to keep large enterprises do not, in a large measure, fall into the trap of loans that are considered good banking practice," the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was authorized as best adapted to supply the immediate credit needs.

Emphasizing its belief in the principle that personal loans should serve to increase both employment and purchasing power, the council urged that "such wage and hour standards as might be enforced on borrowers should also be enforced throughout industry" and that **the borrower will not be at a competitive disadvantage.** It also recommended this problem for further study.

Council Recommendations

Recommendations of the council follow:

"1. That an immediate nation-wide publicity be made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, similar to the Home Owners Loan Corporation and Federal Housing Administration campaigns, to familiarize industry with respect to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation authority to make direct loans.

"2. That, in any event, the loans be made for the full term now authorized by Section 5-D of the Act, and at rates of interest commensurate with the prevailing rates of interest, namely 4 per cent or less.

"3. That the Reconstruction Finance Corporation establish sub-agencies in each county, or in such subdivision of the States as will make such subagencies accessible to prospective borrowers.

"4. That, if a more simplified form of application is not practicable, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation shall have at each sub-agency, assistants to completely prepare the applications of prospective borrowers free of charge.

"That preliminary applications be passed on at respective agencies and financial applications submitted to Washington agency only.

"6. That loans be closed in subagencies.

"7. That the Reconstruction Finance Corporation give all reasonable assistance to any industrial associations desirous of acquainting their members of the requirements with respect to direct loan activities.

"8. That the most liberal possible interpretation be given to Section 5-D in order to fulfill the true intent of the Congress.

"9. That Section 5-D be amended by the present Congress to extend the time within which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is permitted to make direct loans to industry to January 31, 1938.

"10. That Section 5-D be amended by the present Congress so as to permit the aggregate amount of loans outstanding at any time to be increased to anasmount adequate to fully achieve the aims of the program recommended by this committee.

"11. That if the present governmental agencies cannot, under the powers granted by existing legislation, liberalize their policies so as to substantially increase the number of loans granted to small enterprises, or, if more liberal application of policies are inadequate to bring sufficient aid to small enterprises, then Congress should be requested to clothe existing agencies with additional powers and duties or create new agencies for the purpose."

Committee Members

Besides the joint chairmen the following assisted in preparing the report: William A. Hollingsworth, president, Retail Tobacco Dealers of America, New York City; Fred C. Croxton, National Association Used Machinery and Equipment Dealers, Philadelphia, Pa., and Alexander Printz, Printz, Biddeman & Co., New York City, also representing apparel industries; Thomas Mahon, president, United Textile Workers of America; James Maloney, secretary, United Slate, Tile and Composition Roofers, Mosaic and Encaustic Tile Workers' Association, and C. E. Sands, representing Hotel and Restaurant Employes, for labor.

Labor Chest Seeks $50,000 for Victims Of Notorious European Dictatorships

All-Star Benefit at Madison Square Garden in New York City on May 3 Will Be Supported by Stage, Screen and Radio Celebrities, Trade Union Officials and Leaders in Other Circles.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The Committee for the Relief and Liberation from Conditions of Persecution in Europe, organized recently by the Labor Chest of the American Federation of Labor and the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York, has completed preparations for a gigantic all-star benefit at the Madison Square Garden on Sunday evening, May 3. Tickets, priced from $1 to $5, are already on sale at the committee's at 1 West 16th Street, New York, and at all trade union headquarters in the greater city.

Promoters of the entertainment hope to provide substantial funds for the thousands of victims of persecution in Europe, the committee has scaled its prices in a manner which will provide upwards of $50,000. Nevertheless there are more than 8,000 seats priced at $1, in keeping with the pocketbooks of average workers.

Many Stars on Program

An ambitious program is being provided, with outstanding stars of the stage, screen and radio, but many leaders in social, educational and economic life of the Nation have offered their cooperation in order to insure the complete success of the undertaking.

Famous producers, such as Shubert, Harris and George M. Cohan, and leaders among those organized forces, like Frank Gillmore of Actors' Equity and Ralph Whitehead of the American Actors' Union, have likewise proffered their support and the support of their artist membership.

The organized musicians, through President Joseph N. Weber of the National Federation of Musicians, and Local 802, of Musicians' Union, Local 802, are busily engaged in providing outstanding musical talent, and already have arranged for a symphony orchestra of 150 musicians, organized from the best symphonic organizations.

All of the broadcasting companies throughout the United States cooperate, and within a short time the committee will announce a list of artists and entertainers which will set a high mark for this type of endeavor.

Committee Members

The committee is headed by William Green, president, American Federation of Labor; Matthew Woll and Joseph P. Ryan, joint chairmen; William Bratlish Walling and James C. Quinn, joint secretaries, and an executive committee which includes: George L. Brown, David Dubinsky, Morris Feinstone, Frank Gillmore, Michael F. Greene, Sidney Hillman, Andrew J. Kennedy, Thomas F. McMahon, George Meany, John Mundwiler, James C. Quinn, T. A. Rickert, Joseph P. Ryan, B. Charney Vladeck, Edward J. Vola, William English Walling, Joseph N. Weber, Matthew Woll and Max Zaritsky.

In addition a general committee consisting of about 200 labor leaders is actively assisting in making this huge affair an outstanding success.

Unemployment Insurance for Transportation Workers Is Planned by Commerce Commission

Federal Fund Would Be Made Up of Three Per Cent Tax — Around 1,500,000 Are Affected.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Interstate Commerce Commission is considering an unemployment insurance or compensation program for all transportation employes in the United States, it was disclosed is being given definite shape in the office of Joseph B. Eastman, Transportation Coordinator.

Under the new plan unemployment benefits will be provided for transportation workers on a national basis instead of by the individual State system set up by the Security Act passed by Congress last year. All transportation services, whether rail, motor, water or air carriers, would still pay the payroll taxes as provided in the Social Security Act, but the money would go into a federal unemployment insurance fund rather than into the systems as provided in the case of other industries. It is estimated that 1,500,000 would be affected.

The annual levy would be 3 per cent of the aggregate annual $75,000,000 annually after 1938, when a 2 per cent levy on payrolls will be in effect for 1936 and 1937 the levy will be 1 and 2 per cent, respectively.

Officials said benefits would be paid for a designated maximum period when employes are laid off and would be based on the wages they formerly earned.

It was stated that a separate program is being worked out for the transportation system because of the national character of its business. Many States have excluded railroads and other carriers from their State unemployment plans. About 1,500,000 workers would come under the Federal plan.

The bill setting up the program is being studied by the commission preparatory to its submission to President Roosevelt and to Congress.

EDITORIALS

STRIKEBREAKERS

Furnishing strikebreakers, often armed with deadly weapons, to antiunion employers for use in labor disputes is an old practice resorted to by racketeers, who have no scruples regarding the underworld denizens whom they mobilize and use, working men and women struggling to better their economic conditions.

Recently a large baking company in Philadelphia hired a group of these underworld characters to "settle" a dispute with its employes regarding wages and hours. To the surprise of the company officials, the Philadelphia Police Department ordered the strikebreakers placed under arrest as a menace to industrial peace. This unusual method of handling strikebreakers was commended by the Philadelphia Record in an editorial entitled "To Preserve Order in a Strike."

Pointing out that "it is common enough for police to be called upon 'to preserve order' during a strike," but that they "rarely do that job as logically, as sensibly as Philadelphia detectives did" in the baking strike, when "they acted to prevent disorder by arresting 13 strikebreakers, apparently imported by a labor agency," the editorial continues to say:

"It takes two to make a fight, in a strike situation or any other. All too often one of the parties is a professional strikebreaker. Sometimes the violence in an attempt to cause pickets to lose public sympathy is a well-understood angle of the strikebreaking game.

"Philadelphians who believe industrial disputes should be settled in an atmosphere of peace will not take kindly to the discovery reported by the police that those strikebreakers were men used in the recent New York City elevator strike, and that they have been shifted around from job to job, city to city, ever since.

"We don't want that element in this town and we are sure that the employers in this case did not know the past histories of the men supplied to them by the agency. We do not propose to make direct arms to force every ex-convict to register, even though he be presently enjoying a clean record, has something to get its teeth into in this problem.

"Whether by city ordinance or State law, or both, the traffic in strikebreakers should be kept under strict official watch. Employment agencies dealing in strikebreakers should be held accountable for the acts of every man they supply, and should be subject to fine every time they supply a man with a criminal record. Safeguards of this order are under consideration in New York. They should be adopted.

"The registration requirements and supervision should be strictest in the case of the notorious New York City strikebreaking agencies, which are now ploughing the Philadelphia field."

FIREWORKS BLINDNESS

An attempt to reduce the number of injuries to eyesight has been initiated by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness by the introduction of two bills in the New York State Legislature. One of the bills prohibits the sale of fireworks to persons under 21 years of age, the other authorizes municipal authorities to permit "competent persons" to exhibit a display of fireworks when a bond is posted to provide financial protection for those who may be injured.

Lewis H. Carris, managing director of the Society, says the measures "represent real progress toward the elimination of fireworks accidents," adding:

"Every season about 50 persons throughout the United States lose the sight of one eye or both, and another 500 receive minor injuries from fireworks. The indifference of Americans in allowing these injuries to occur is a national disgrace. It is done to celebrate Independence Day, but a safe and sane method of commemorating the event would be a whole lot more patriotic."

92 MUSIC PUBLISHERS HIT BY WALKOUT OF MUSICIANS

New York Union Demands Higher Pay, 35-Hour Week and Piece Work Minimum.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS)—Local No. 102 of the American Federation of Musicians called a strike of arrangers, copyists, proofreaders and manifold writers employed by 26 New York City music firms, members of the Music Publishers' Protective Association, and 56 independent music publishing houses in an endeavor to secure shorter working hours, alongr with hicher wages and shorter hours.

Jacob Rosenberg, secretary of the union, said the walkout, which had the cooperation of the "Autographers' Union, Local 1974, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, had tied up the music publishing industry here.

The union seeks the following wage scale for its members employed on a full-time basis: Arrangers, $75 a week; supervisors, $100; copyists, $50, and proofreaders, $75. A standard 35-hour week is demanded as well as a basic minimum charge for piece work. Use of the union's identifying stamp on manuscripts is also asked.

The drive to unionize arrangers and copyists, Mr. Rosenberg said, was started last November. Three radio stations, he added, had recently signed contracts setting scales of $115 and $100 a week for arrangers and $65 for copyists on a 35-hour week basis.

The union announced that it negotiated settlements with five publishing houses within two days after the strike was declared.

ELEVATOR MEN ASK $20 PAY RISE IN NEW YORK

Building Service Employes' Union Also Seeks Higher Wage for Charwomen.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The reasonableness of organized labor's demands for higher wages was illustrated in the wage increase schedule presented by the Building Service Employes' Union here to Ferdinand A. Silcox, head of the United States Forestry Service, who was chosen as arbitrator in the settlement of the recent building service strike.

Victor J. Bambrick, president of the union, said the objectives of the union included a flat increase of $20 a month for employes in the three classes of apartment houses in which the minimum are $70, $80 and $90 a month, with a 54-hour week for day men and a 66-hour week for night men. The union seeks a standard 48-hour week, with specifications that there shall be no increase in hours or decrease in wages during the agreement."

Pleading for "a living wage, providing for health and modest comfort," Mr. Bambrick pointed out that the highest wage sought by the union would fall far below the $1,522 annual statistical survey as the lowest possible annual wage on which a family of five could decently live.

For the three sizes of loft buildings, the union sought minimum weekly wages of $26, $24 and $22, with 50 cents an hour for charwomen. For office buildings a minimum increase of $5 a week was sought, raising minimums to $25, $24 and $24.

"This wage scale, compared with other cities, is low, and in that connection it must be kept in mind that living costs are relatively higher in New York," said Mr. Bambrick, who went into some detail in statistics on living costs. He said that the $1,522 standard for a living wage was made on allowance for saving, and that a living wage really should be $1,775 a year."

Walter Gordon Merritt, counsel for the Realty Advisory Board which controls 825 buildings included in the arbitration proceedings, denied the wage increases demanded by the union with the statement that "the present New York wage employers. One of his points was that, with an increasing number of realty foreclosures, how could apartment house owners be logically asked to pay more wages on the operating basis? In addition, he stressed the idea that building service workers had "light, unexacting and interesting employment work," and therefore their living standards should be appreciably lower than the standards for other types of employes.

HARRISBURG PRINTERS WIN STRIKE FOR UNION SHOP

Telegraph Press, With State Printing Contract, Signs Two-Year Contract.

Harrisburg, Pa. (AFLNS).—About 100 striking union printers and pressmen went back to their jobs on the Telegraph Press here when the management returned to the union shop under a two-year agreement negotiated by Secretary of Property Charles Speaker Arthur E. Colegrove acting on orders from Governor Earle.

The management decided to try the "open shop" game on March 9 by locking out its union employes and refusing the wage scale for both printers and pressmen from 95 cents to 85 cents an hour. The State was directly interested because the company does the bulk of the Commonwealth's printing.

The two unions called a strike after the lockout. They charged that Brigadier General E. J. Stackpole, president of the company and commanding officer of the 52nd Cavalry Brigade, Pennsylvania National Guard, was failing to live up to the terms of the wage contract which provided automatic extension for a period not to exceed 30 days for negotiation of a new agreement.

It required two weeks' negotiations by Mr. Colegrove to turn the Statecontrolled printing plant back to the union fold.

CITY-WIDE STRIKE CALLED BY N. Y. MARKET CLERKS

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—A strike affecting between 4,000 and 5,000 clerks and delivery boys in retail fruit and vegetable stores in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn was voted by members of the Retail Grocery, Fruit and Vegetable Clerks' Union after unsuccessful conferences among union representatives and spokesmen for the Chain Grocery Fruit Merchants' Association and the Fruit Merchants' Association of Manhattan and the Bronx.

Union spokesmen said the union had asked an opportunity to negotiate and present the grievances of the men who ask a 57-hour week in place of the present work week averaging more than 90 hours, increased wages of from 10 to 25 per cent for those paid less than $35 per week, recognition of the right of delivery boys to organize, and the designation of an arbitrator to settle differences that may arise in the future.

Countering this demand mentioned in the Bronx organization kicked out many clerks and the other employer groups threatened to take similar action.

Labor Board Rules Richmond Clothing Concern Violated Wagner-Connery Act

Marks Company Official Alleged to Have Told Employe to "Watch" Union Meeting—Rehiring of Discharged Workers Is Ordered.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board decided that in two cases, involving complaints filed on behalf of 13 employes of the Friedman-Harry Marks Clothing Company of Richmond, Va., the employer had unfairly violated the provisions of the Wagner-Connery Act in discharging the employes for membership in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

The Labor Board declared in its decision that Morton Marks, president of the company, had indicated hostility to the union when a local branch was formed in his plant in the Summer of 1935. He stated to a group of female employes, according to the ruling, that "I will fire every damn one that attends these meetings."

During July, 1935, the board also found, Keeve Marks, secretary of the company, told employes that "we hear of your going to get fired." Then, he was charged, Mr. Marks suggested that the employe attend the meeting "with other employes and "wreck the damn place."

"Hang on the seats, boo them, stamp upon them," Mr. Marks is said to have asserted.

"Interference by employers in the men's clothing industry with the activities of employes in joining and assisting labor organizations, and their refusal to accept the procedure of collective bargaining has led, and tends to lead, to strikes and other labor disputes that burden and obstruct commerce," the board stated. Mr. Marks, according to the ruling, that the board ordered.

WORK FOR JOBLESS STRESSED BY BERRY

Reappointed Industrial Coordinator By Roosevelt, He Says Ending Unemployment Is Big Problem for Industry—Condemns Cutthroat Competition —Industrial Progress Council Has Roosevelt's Approval.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt's reappointment of Major George L. Berry as Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation emphasizes the broad purposes of recovery program recently adopted by the Council for Industrial Progress, of which Major Berry is the head.

Under order defining Major Berry's duties read:

"To arrange and supervise, subject to the direction of the President, conferences of representatives of industry, investors, labor and consumers for consideration of means of supplementing the Government's efforts by providing employment for the largest number of employable persons and of improving and maintaining industrial, commercial and labor standards and purchasing power, and to submit reports and recommendations to the President with respect thereto."

Industrial Council's Work

The recent meeting held by the Council, which is limited to not more than 15 representatives of labor and industry, adopted a number of reports urging legislation designed to reduce unemployment and improve industrial conditions, including Federal regulation of maximum hours, minimum wages and child labor, outlawing of unfair trade practices, extension of Government loans to small enterprises and the restoration of Government competition with private industry.

Approved by Roosevelt

In summing up the work of the Council, Major Berry said President Roosevelt "enthusiastically received the reports of the conference and indicated his complete satisfaction with the results obtained. He also expressed the profound hope that this cooperation of management and labor through the Industrial Council might be made a permanent function in the life of the Nation."

Unemployment Problem

Turning to the question of the jobless army, now reliably estimated to number in excess of 11,500,000, Major Berry said he was convinced "that this is the time above all when men engaged in business, manufacturing and labor status, whether they be called employers or employes, might well take account of their responsibility as well as the responsibility of industry to meet the great problem of unemployment in the United States."

He added that, in his judgment, the Council "may have been able to make a contribute as much as any instrumentality of Government or industry today or in the Government of the past in the furtherance of tranquility and harmony which must be made a part of employer. There can be no question but that the future security and the perpetuity of American life depends very largely, even entirely, upon the successful outcome of the conferences and differences between those who are engaged in industry."

Government in Business

In an enumeration of the important questions which the Industrial Conference considered Major Berry mentioned amendments of the anti-trust laws in the interest of more elasticity for "the granting of free and unrestrained co-operation as between representatives of industry." Government participation in private business, and cut-throat competition.

Although the development of Government enterprise seemed unavoidable during the business depression, when "the banks and industries and railroads and insurance companies have sought the aid of the Government," Major Berry declared "that the Government has no desire to compete with private industry in normal times goes without saying," adding: "I am confident that the President intends that the Government shall withdraw from those fields when conditions approach and when the great mass of our unemployed citizens are again employed in private industry."

Attacks Cutthroat Competition

In the field of "cutthroat competition," Major Berry included "competition that has to do with the exploitation of the child in the factory and in the mine, competition that has to do with the increase of the hours of labor, which accentuates unemployment and increases unemployment."

"These are the things," Major Berry concluded, "that ought to be remedied if possible by cooperation and by education. There are those engaged in industry who decline to adhut themselves to the morals and the ethics of fair competition, to the detriment of the whole country and to the interest of those who disregard it. Moreover, in the last analysis the tremendous power of the American people, as a last resort some law must be enacted in order that we may eliminate the evil of cutthroat competition which was so destructive to our economic policy and structure."

European Housing and Railroad Problems Explained by Harrison

American Labor Delegate to International Labor Office Meeting In Geneva Says Workers in Holland Pay $2.45 Per Week for Three-Room Apartment—Shorter Work Week for Adults and Ban on Employment of Children Included in I. L. O. Program—Workers in Europe Are Protected by Social Justice Legislation.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Although the economic conditions of European workers are not up to American standards, they have a much larger degree of legislation enacted in the interest of social justice, George M. Harrison, labor representative of the United States at the recent meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labor Office in Geneva, Switzerland, declared in a radio address here on European labor conditions.

Mr. Harrison, who is president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and a vice president of the American Federation of Labor, spoke over the network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Here are an account of the improvement in European housing conditions and explained the operation of European railroads under government ownership. His survey of the work of the Labor party in Great Britain and on the Continent led him to the conclusion that independent political action by the workers of the United States is inadvisable.

Following is the text of Mr. Harrison's address:

"I went to Geneva, Switzerland, as the labor delegate representing the American labor movement, to attend a meeting of the Governing Board of the International Labor Office.

"This institution was organized in furtherance of the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, the first article of which specifically provide that to bring about better conditions for men and the security of the peoples of the world it is necessary to safeguard freedom of speech, the right of association, improve standards of the people and reduce economic rivalry.

"The members of this Board represent the eight leading industrial nations of the world. It reviews general economic questions in an effort to improve the standards of the working people and to equalize the costs of production. Some of the questions considered by this body may be recited, to give a general idea of the approach made to a solution of these difficulties.

Shorter Work Week, Child Labor

"An eight-hour day, if adopted we had under consideration the necessity of introducing the 40-hour work week in the chemical, bookbinding and printing industries, together with provisions prohibiting the employment of children. Perhaps you know that several countries have already adopted treaties prohibiting the employment of children below the ages of from 12 to 14, but because of the continuance of the economic rivalry, our country is sponsoring a revision of those treaties to raise the ages to the limit of 15 years of age.

"This, of course, represents a very substantial advance moving nearer to the century, and until such time that this agency or some other institution can bring about a better status of equality in world costs of production, the people of America will not consent to such sacrifices as may be necessary to protect American industry against the influx of low-grade goods, produced by sweated labor. Without such protection and a world-wide standard of living conditions, America cannot hold its position of industrial supremacy.

"Workers in Europe are far below our standards, but they are in advance of America in questions concerning social justice legislation. In my survey of conditions I found that almost universally the workers enjoy protection against unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age.

Protection Given Railroad Employes

"What struck me most singularly was the manner in which they have solved the railroad problem. Of all the countries of Europe, there are only two where the railroads are privately operated. This condition has developed because of a long and unsatisfactory experience they have had with private ownership and operation.

"In all the nationalized railways the employes are civil servants and they have a permanent status and are not subject to the whims of politicians because of recessions in business as we experience in our country. They are granted old-age annuities and their conditions of employment are comparable in every way to our country, although I find in that field, as in industry generally, that their wages are relatively lower than in the United States.

"The railways in France, Holland and England are suffering from competition by motor carriers in very much the same manner that we are experiencing in this country. I found, however, in Switzerland that the carrying on of transportation is an exclusive state function. If one wishes to travel by motor bus he must go to the post office to obtain his ticket, and the government determines the bus. Transportation of freight by truck is prohibited over distances greater than 35 miles.

"France levies a tax on railroad passenger fares of 9½ per cent and 12½ per cent on freight charges, which are methods utilized to augment the national revenues.

Subsidized Housing

"Perhaps one other question would be of interest to my audience that I was struck me most forcefully, and that was the large housing program which has been in effect for a number of years in Holland. There was a housing problem there as in the countries of the World War to relieve unemployment. In order to develop a program that would meet the needs of the people the government passed legislation providing for the organization of housing building and loan societies. The national government provides 50 per cent of the capital, the local or city government provides 45 per cent and the society makes up the remainder or 5 per cent. The loans advanced by the governments are on a basis of 4 per cent and extended over a period of 50 years. As the result of this program the slums were demolished and housing facilities were provided for thousands of families.

"In Amsterdam, Holland, a worker may obtain a modern, up-to-date apartment of three rooms for three and one-half ulden a week, which is about $2.45 in our currency; if he wants larger quarters he pays a little more as the rate goes up proportionately, but I discovered no evidence of congestion in the homes of a number of the workers that if the head of the family is over 65 years of age he receives a reduction of 40 per cent in the fixed scale of rentals. The home is modern in every convenience, including radios with a centralized installation, and all that is necessary is to plug in and get a program.

"England has undertaken a similar program and I was given to understand from people with whom I discussed this question, that the success of the housing program in that country has had more to do with the revival of business than any other thing they have undertaken. Unemployment continues to be bad, but they are making progress in meeting that problem.

"Conditions are now badly disturbed because of recent complications growing out of the action of Chancellor Hitler in Germany, and I shall not undertake to forecast what may develop in that direction."

Labor Party

"I found that in many countries of Europe, particularly England, workers have established and improved their economic status by a Labor party. In each of the countries many officers of the labor unions are members of the parliament. They have undoubtedly succeeded in this direction, from my observations and understandinr of conditions in a general way in our own country, I doubt if we could successfully apply those methods here. My own opinion is that we can best serve the interest of the workers by continuing our policy of supporting those public officers who look after the interest of all the people and by opposing those who seek special interests and seek a selfish advantage.

Union Label Products

"I gained the definite impression that the standards of living in European States are considerably lower than they are in this country and that my opinion we should exercise due diligence in safeguarding our standards. If you see a product in the stores of this country carries the union label you will know it was manufactured by workers under American standards and that is a better guarantee that the workers who manufactured the product were working under more perfect conditions of employment than if the product in foreign-made."

Court Ban Against Unauthorized Strike Committee Is Asked by Seamen's Union

Furuseth Says New York Walkout Group Falsely Claims to Represent A. F. of L. Organization.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union of America, petitioned Supreme Court Justice Aaron J. Levy in New York City for a restraining order enjoining Joseph Curran, chairman of a provisional strike committee in the Nation's metropolis, from deceiving the public and union members by falsely stating that the committee represents the union and from causing steamship operators to break agreements with the union.

Declaring that the committee's calls for walkouts on various vessels in the New York harbor have been outlaw strikes, the union has assisted operators of these vessels in securing crews, has called by supplying union men to take the place of the unauthorized strikers.

Mr. Furuseth represented by Saul Sperling and stated in his complaint that the International Seamen's Union has 50,000 members, is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and on March 11 had renewed an agreement with 26 steamship lines extending to September 30, 1937, providing for employment of members of the union at union wages.

In his complaint Mr. Furuseth alleges that Curran organized the provisional strike committee on March 18, falsely claiming he represented the union, and began a campaign which in effect seeks to destroy the union by terminating its agreement with steamship companies. According to the complaint the committee has sought to induce union members to quit employment and has "threatened to tie up all shipping on the Atlantic seaboard unless its demands are regulated and terminated."

The complaint charges the defendant with falsifying and distorting statements referring to the plaintiff, and says he has "attempted to compel managers of steamship companies to cancel their passage," and has organized "mobs to congregate in front of and to crowd up and down in close proximity to the offices of many of the said steamship companies and their docks and piers with false and misleading placards that they are in no way connected with representatives of the plaintiff and have the sanction of the American Federation of Labor."

600 PHILADELPHIA SHOE WORKERS WIN UNION SHOP

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLNS).—An outstanding victory for union labor was registered here when the Standard & Cleopatra Shoe Company, employing 600 persons, signed a contract with the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union following a four days' strike.

The agreement provided that all employes must be members of the union, establishes a 40-hour week with extra compensation for overtime, and grants wage increases averaging from 15 to 25 per cent for all the workers in the plant.

The strike settlement was reached through negotiations conducted by John J. Marx, president of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, and Lewis G. Hines, representative of the American Federation of Labor.